

Albuquerque District Mining Office
Conservation Division
P. O. Box 69
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

DEC 31 1981

Mr. Robert D. Lynn
General Manager
Anaconda Copper Company
P. O. Box 638
Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. Lynn:

December 17, 1981, I inspected the underground mining operations at your Jackpile-Paguate Mine, Pueblo of Laguna Uranium Leases 1, 4, and 8. Mining has been completed in the P-10 Mine, and underground crews were in the process of salvaging equipment such as locomotives, ore cars, pipe, and power cables. According to mine personnel, salvage operations, including the removal of pumps, should be completed in January 1982. Mining operations are continuing at the P-13 and NJ-45 Mines, but mine personnel stated that the extent of these operations will be significantly less than originally planned.

As you know, this office has been advised that all operations at your Jackpile-Paguate Mine will be permanently terminated March 31, 1982. We have not received written confirmation of this termination, and 25 CFR 177.9 (d) (1) requires such notification 30 or more days prior to cessation of operations. Based on the aforementioned inspection and conversations with mine personnel, I am concerned that abandonment of the underground mining operations prior to or shortly after the notification required by 25 CFR 177.9(d) (1) will render the underground workings inaccessible. This would be contrary to the provisions of 30 CFR 231.41 and could be detrimental to the formulation of the reclamation plan for the Jackpile-Paguate Mine. In addition, this office must resolve certain questions regarding maximum resource recovery (30 CFR 231.3 and 231.31) before these underground workings are rendered inaccessible.

In behalf of the above concerns and under the provisions of 30 CFR 231.41, you are hereby advised that all existing access (pumps, ventilation, ground support, etc.) to the underground workings of the P-10, P-13 and NJ-45 Mines must be maintained until the abandonment of these workings is approved in writing by the Geological Survey. Furthermore, under the provisions of 25 CFR 171.24, all mining equipment used for the P-10, P-13, and NJ-45 Mines shall not be removed from the leased premises without prior written approval by the Geological Survey.

As previously mentioned, 30 CFR 231.3 and 231.31 require that the Geological Survey assure maximum resource recovery. In order to resolve this question for the P-10, P-13 and NJ-45 Mines, I would appreciate submittal of the following information as soon as possible:

- 1) a complete map of the P-10 Mine including the P-7 area, the mine workings extended into the P-15 area, and remaining ore zones with average grades and thicknesses of ore;
- 2) a description of the P-15 ore reserves originally planned for extraction and the actual reserves mined;
- 3) complete maps of the P-13 and NJ-45 Mines including mine workings and ore zones with average grades and thicknesses of ore; and,
- 4) a description of the P-13 and NJ-45 ore reserves originally planned for extraction and the actual reserves mined.

If you have any questions about the abandonment of the underground mine workings or the information requested, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

(ORIG. SGD.) DALE C. JONES

Dale C. Jones
District Mining Supervisor

cc:

DCM--Mining, SCR

Task Force Leader, Jackpile-Paguate EIS

Tom O'Hare, Attorney-Advisor, Solicitor's Office, DOI

Governor, Pueblo of Laguna

Superintendent, Southern Pueblos Agency, BIA

Area Director, Albuquerque Area Office, BIA

Chrono, Albuq. Dist.

✓ Mine Plan File: Anaconda Comprehensive Mine Plan, P-10 Mine,
NJ-45 Mine (3)

DCJones:cid 12/30/81